

**Orinda Community Church
Order of Worship
Sunday, August 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



Reflection:

We are of such value to God that God came to live among us. . . and to guide us home. The Holy One will go to any length to seek us. . . We can only respond by loving God in thanks for God's love. -- Catherine of Siena

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

David Milnes

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT & RINGING OF THE HOUR

The Acolytes

WELCOME

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

The Shema

Lani Shepp

One: Hear, O Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is One! Blessed is God's name; God's glorious kingdom is forever and ever!

All: And we shall love Adonai our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, and with all our might.

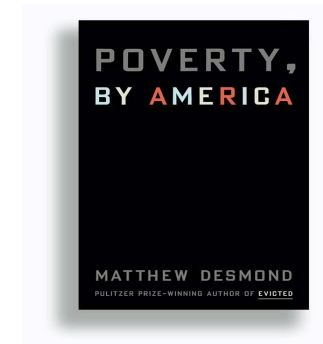
One: And these words which you are commanded on this day shall be upon your hearts; teach them faithfully to your children, speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up.

All: We bind them as a sign upon our hands; let them be a symbol before our eyes. Inscribe them on the doorposts of our houses and on our gates.

**Stand as you are able*

2nd Hour September 10

Life Long Learning is holding a **2nd Hour Presentation** on September 10, about the book *Poverty, by America* by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Matthew Desmond. We encourage you to begin reading now so that you can be part of the discussion when we meet!



HOME COMING

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FOOD & LOTS OF FUN!

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 17, AFTER CHURCH



A Thank you from Mercy & Justice Ministry

Hope Solutions Back Drive was a huge success. See below from Sandibel Arnold at Hope Solutions:

“I am happy to let you know that we reached our goal of collecting/packing 629 backpacks for the children in our programs. All backpacks have made their way to the children in our programs to prepare them for a successful school year.”

“I am also happy to let you know that we received monetary donations from people at your church in support of our backpack drive. Thank you so much for spreading the word about our backpack drive and for all of your continuous support.”

And Good News! Some Safeways are taking more plastic than just bags plastic product wrap and plastic shipping supplies. This sign is from the Safeway in Alamo:



Check out your grocery store!

HYMN* RH 660

God Is Here

Cyril V. Taylor

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Lani Shepp

Give ear, Adonai, to our prayer, heed our pleas for mercy. In times of trouble we call to You, for You will answer us. When pain and fatigue are our companions, let there be room in our hearts for strength. Let the light of courage find its place. Help us to endure the challenges and dissolve the fear. Renew within us the calm spirit of peace. Blessed are You, Adonai, Healer. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Ava Skidgel

WE LISTEN

ANTHEM

**Stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lani Shepp

Matthew 22: 36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Mark 12:28-31

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

SERMON

Basic Christianity

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

**Stand as you are able*



Thank you to this week's ushers:

**Phil Bernard
Leslie Dickson
Gail Mead
John Skidgel**



Electric Vehicle Celebration Show October 15

The Orinda Community Church first ever **Electric Vehicle Show!** This will be a fun activity to celebrate how church folks are going electric!

Do you own an electric vehicle - A car? A bike? A golf cart?

Contact Nancy Thursby to have your vehicle in the show:
nlthursby@comcast.net

WE RESPOND



Our hearts are with our sisters and brothers in Maui.

If you would like to make a donation to support those who were impacted by the devastating fires in Hawaii, you can give through the United Church of Christ by going to:

<https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>



We are seeing new scam contact attempts. DO NOT reply to emails that seem to be from Elizabeth asking you for money or gift cards. Elizabeth is NOT asking anyone for any kind of help with gift cards or money. Elizabeth's true email is elizabeth.orindachurch@gmail.com PLEASE DON'T GET SCAMMED!

HYMN* RH 111

How Can We Name a Love

Franklin L. Sheppard

A TIME OF PRAYER

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory

forever. Amen.

MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Stand as you are able*

OFFERTORY SOLO

DOXOLOGY* RH 94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HYMN* RH 402 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* African American Spiritual

BENEDICTION* Reverend Elizabeth Robinson

POSTLUDE David Milnes

Upcoming Events!

Please join us for these upcoming activities at the church:

- ❖ **September 10**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour:**
A discussion of *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond. We hope this conversation will initiate an ongoing examination of poverty and how we can become, as Desmond says, “poverty abolitionists.” You don’t need to have read the book to join us.
- ❖ **September 10**, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom: **Karen Llagas and Leticia del Toro will be our next Alta Mesa Center for the Arts readers**, sharing from their creative work.
- ❖ **September 17, HOMECOMING**
- ❖ **September 24**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour:**
We are honored to have **Bill Abriel** share his **spiritual journey**.
- ❖ **October 15**, after church: **Electric Vehicle Show**. We will have a casual walkaround so that those who have electric cars and bikes can share them and talk about the benefits of non-polluting transport. If you have any kind of electric vehicle you would like to show off during this event please sign up with Nancy Thursby: nlthursby@comcast.net
- ❖ **October 22**, after services at 11:30 a.m., **Second Hour: Roger Samuelsen will lead a conversation about Common Hope**, an organization with which we have a long-time partnership. Each year, we bring together the funds to build a house, yes, a whole house! This Sunday will kick off our fundraising for this year’s house.

**Stand as you are able*

thank
you

And now a moment of thanks for those who provide us with beautiful flowers on the altar week after week. Many thanks to Lani Shepp, Melody Ferreira, Joni Upshaw, Karen Sanford, Anne Barr, Tre Frane, Kathi Kling, Gwen McNeilus, Allison Skidgel, and Betty Wu. Your efforts make our worship time more beautiful and restorative.



Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563

(925) 254-4906

office@orindachurch.org

Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Pastor

David Milnes, Director of Music

Anna Gregory, Office Administrator

WEEKLY EVENTS

In addition to 10 am Sunday worship, we offer these weekly:

- ✚ Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel, we host Centering Prayer.
- ✚ Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., we hold a brief Contemplative Service in the chapel, which includes readings, music, prayer time, and silence. This service also goes out electronically.
- ✚ Life and Loss Group meets every Thursday in the Fireside Room from 12:15 pm to 1:45 pm. You are welcome to simply attend, or if you have questions, please call or email the office.
- ✚ Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m., our Theology and Scripture group meets via Zoom to discuss theology and the bible, and other topics. The next meeting is Thursday, August 31, at 2:00 pm.

And these, every other week:

- ✚ 2 Tuesdays a month, the Writers Group shares and discusses their writings via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 5.
- ✚ Two Thursdays a month, starting at 3:45 p.m., the Reading Group meets via Zoom. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 7, at 4:00 p.m. The room opens at 3:45 p.m. for welcome and chatting.

Thanks to Betty for this gorgeous photo of one of her arrangements!

Alta Mesa Center for the Arts



Alta Mesa Center for the Arts, under the leadership of Mary Volmer, is an interfaith arts and spirituality hub, housed within and sponsored by Orinda Community Church.

AMCA presents a reading featuring poets Karen Llagas & Leticia Del Toro, Sept 10, 2023 at 4:00 pm on ZOOM



Leticia Del Toro is a Mexican-American poet and fiction writer from Crockett, California. Her travels to Mexico, Spain and France, also inform her work. *All We Are Told Not to Touch*, is her debut poetry release from Finishing Line Press. Her writings have appeared in *Huizache*, *Zyzyva*, *About Place Journal* and more. Kore Press published her novella, *Café Colima* in 2018. Additional honors include residencies to Hedgebrook, Bread Loaf and Storyknife.

Leticia has also thrived in the writing communities of VONA and Macondo. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and UC Davis. She was recently awarded a Jack Hazard Fellowship from the New Literary Project for high school teachers who are creative writers. Leticia is currently working on a novel called, *Return to Azucena*.



Karen Llagas's new chapbook, *All Of Us Are Cleaved*, is now out from Nomadic Press! Her first collection of poetry, *Archipelago Dust*, was published by Meritage Press in 2010. A recipient of the 2022 RHINO Founder's Prize, Filamore Tabios, Sr. Memorial Poetry Prize, an Elizabeth George Award and a Hedgebrook residency, her poems, translations, prose and reviews have also appeared in various journals and anthologies.

Born and raised in the Philippines, she has an MFA in Writing from Warren Wilson College and a BA from Ateneo de Manila. Karen lectures at UC Berkeley and works as a freelance translator & cultural consultant. She divides her time between San Francisco and Los Angeles with her husband and their two dogs, Boccia & Oso.

Check your eblasts to **REGISTER FOR THIS FREE, ONLINE EVENT**, or go to: <https://forms.gle/Ake74AnQhq5aCjYp>